

House Political Subdivisions Committee

HCR 3023

February 13, 2025

Chairperson Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee:

I am Erin Ourada, the administrator of Western Plains Public Health (formerly Custer Health), a five-county public health unit based in Mandan. WPPH provides local public health services to Grant, Mercer, Morton, Oliver and Sioux Counties.

I am providing testimony in support of HCR 3023, which affirms the state's commitment to ensuring state-funded essential services remain fully funded and operational regardless of changes in federal funding allocations. WPPH supports the efforts of this resolution to ensure that K-12 education, law enforcement, public health, infrastructure, agricultural programs, and economic development continue to be funded at a level that supports North Dakota residents. These services are the core of our state's health and safety. For instance, our nursing, environmental health, and maternal child health services along with our emergency preparedness efforts rely on stable funding to remain accessible to all residents. Fluctuations in federal funding can create uncertainty, making it difficult for local agencies to plan and sustain critical services.

Public health plays a foundational role in keeping our communities safe and thriving. Ensuring stable funding for these essential services is not just an investment in health—it's an investment in North Dakota's future. I urge you to support HCR 3023 and uphold the state's commitment to its residents. Thank you for your ongoing support and for considering this concurrent resolution.

Respectfully submitted by,

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